The reasons for drop in consumption of diesel *inter-alia* include substitution by other fuels like kerosene and LDO; increasing use of CNG as transportation fuel in Delhi and Mumbai; slow industrial growth, etc.

(c) and (d) As per the Industry report, the possibility of diversion of kerosene for adulteration with diesel cannot be ruled out. With a view to curb diversion of kerosene imports by private parties, the Government *vide* Notification No. 24/(RE-2003)/2002-07 dated 25-11-03 has canalized the imports of kerosene through State Trading Enterprises. Also, at the request of Government of India, some of the state Governments have increased sales tax rates on kerosene marketed through the parallel marketing scheme.

Oman's investment in Oil Sector

2266. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oman has shown interest in investing in Oil Sector in India;

(b) what are the earlier stakes of Oman in the Oil and fertilizer sector; and

(c) what is the status of the gas pipeline project between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRAMAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Oman Government, through Oman Oil Company, has shown interest in the oil sector by participating with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in setting up of a refinery at Bina (Madhya Pradesh). Till now, Oman Oil Company has invested Rs. 75.5 crore in this project.

Oman has so far made no investment in any fertilizer company in India.

(c) It was mutually agreed to shelve this project as its technical and financial viability could not be established.